

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY NOTICE

PIPELINE INTEGRITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION GRANT



PON-12-505

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html>

State of California
California Energy Commission
November 2012

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PIER General, University of California, and National Laboratory Terms and Conditions can be viewed at: www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html

I. Introduction

PURPOSE OF PON

The purpose of this competitive grant solicitation is to demonstrate natural gas (NG) pipeline integrity monitoring and inspection technologies which are past the “proof-of-concept” stage and ready for demonstration in a utility setting. Technologies will provide operators increased operational awareness and/or the ability to accurately assess the condition of pipe segments within the network. This solicitation seeks projects that address one of the following Targeted Technology Areas:

1. Enhanced operational awareness using low cost, low power sensors;
2. Improvements to existing pipeline inspection technologies;
3. Methods to reduce operating costs and optimize field data collection; or
4. Enhanced integrity management practices through risk analysis, prediction, and decision-based methodology.

The objective is to obtain proven technical and economic data from these demonstrations, which will increase pipeline operator confidence in the demonstrated technology. Demonstrations will aid in market facilitation of the technology, and seek to provide operators improved tools to incorporate into current integrity management practices. Following successful demonstration at a utility site, there must be plans to commercialize the demonstrated technology within a 2-3 year time frame. Plans for gaining operator acceptance, market development, and deployment must be addressed in all submitted proposals.

BACKGROUND

The California Energy Commission’s (Energy Commission’s) Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program was established to support research, development, and demonstration projects that advance energy-related sciences and technologies, and also help improve the quality of life for utility customers. Recent technological advancements have significantly increased NG supplies and decreased costs, making the fuel very desirable for a wide variety of applications. However, increased NG demand and the aging transmission/distribution infrastructure have brought to light substantial challenges for NG users and operators within the state. Pipeline integrity and safety has become an emerging theme in the California energy sector, causing the Energy Commission to shape and prioritize its long-term research goals to directly address issues important to California’s energy-smart future. Recent catastrophic events in the NG pipeline transmission system have amplified the need to demonstrate technologies that provide operators increased information regarding and control over the pipeline network. Pipeline integrity management tools and practices that allow preemptive detection and assessment of potential failure locations have been further identified as an area in need of improvement. Through funding research and demonstration in these areas, the Energy Commission seeks to provide tools for operators to enhance the safety of the California NG infrastructure for both the public and industry employees.

In 2010, the PIER Program's Energy Systems Research Office awarded a contract to the UC Berkeley Center for Information Technology in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) to develop and demonstrate pipeline inspection and monitoring technologies that are not yet commercially available. These technologies will provide increased operational awareness of the pipeline infrastructure through dispersion of wireless communicating sensors at smaller intervals throughout the network.

The sensors utilize Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) technology to measure and transmit pipeline operational data such as pressure, flow rate, and vibrations, allowing a more accurate picture of the overall system status to be obtained. MEMS technology allows multiple sensors to be integrated onto a single chip, providing a sensor package that is low cost and consumes little power. Also being developed are new applications of Laser Ultrasonic Testing, packaged so they can be mounted on existing pipeline inspection crawlers and used to accurately locate and measure flaws in the pipeline wall. The ability to both detect and measure pipeline flaws in one inspection run will reduce downtime due to inspection, and increase operator ability to assess and mitigate risks to the NG infrastructure. The Benchmarking Technology Report and Sensor Design Report produced by CITRIS are available as drafts for the purposes of this solicitation (Attachments 14 and 15).

In addition to the work of CITRIS, a contract was awarded to the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) to assess the current status of technologies used in pipeline integrity management practices throughout the nation. The baseline assessment identified technologies used by operators that are not in use in California, as well as emerging technologies that can be used to enhance the integrity and safety of NG pipelines. Pipeline assessment and monitoring needs that could be filled with commercially available technologies were also detailed in the baseline assessment. Further work involved a gap analysis to compare available technologies to those recommended to further enhance pipeline safety. Accompanying the gap analysis is a catalogue of available inspection technologies that compiles the abilities of current commercial pipeline inspection methods and provides operators a tool to aid in selecting the appropriate inspection method for a given pipeline condition. The California Natural Gas Pipeline Assessment Task 2 Draft Report and the California Natural Gas Pipeline Assessment Task 3 Draft Report are available for the purposes of this solicitation (Attachments 16 and 17).

A public workshop was conducted at the Energy Commission on August 7, 2012 to present the current research and development results of both CITRIS and GTI. Recommendations for technologies to pursue in future funding opportunities were also presented and reviewed by attendees. Input from pipeline operators and other governmental organizations gained through the workshop have aided in forming the Targeted Technology Areas (Attachment 18) sought for demonstration in this solicitation, and determined the abilities each technology must possess to provide tools beneficial to current integrity management practices. The presentation from the August 7, 2012 Natural Gas Pipeline Research Workshop can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/notices/>.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND DATES

Key activities including dates and times for this PON are presented below. An addendum will be released if the dates change for the asterisked (*) activities.

ACTIVITY	ACTION DATE
PON Release	November 2, 2012
Deadline for Written Questions*	November 13, 2012
Pre-Application Workshop*	November 13, 2012
Distribute Questions/Answers and Addenda (if any) to PON	November 20, 2012
Deadline to Submit Applications by 3:00 p.m.*	December 17, 2012
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting Date	January 2013
Anticipated Commission Business Meeting Date	February 2013
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	March 2013
Agreement Termination Date	June 2016

AVAILABLE FUNDING AND HOW AWARD IS DETERMINED

There is **\$2,000,000** available for the agreement resulting from this PON. The Energy Commission anticipates selecting multiple contracts resulting from this solicitation, and no single proposal may request PIER funding of more than \$1,000,000. Organizations may submit multiple proposals. However, each proposal must be a distinct project and must be submitted separately, adhering to all requirements contained in this solicitation.

Competitive Solicitation: Applicants compete based on selection criteria and are scored and ranked based on those criteria. The highest scoring applicants will receive funding.

The Energy Commission reserves the right to reduce the agreement amount to an amount deemed appropriate in the event the budgeted funds do not provide full funding of Energy Commission agreements. In this event, the Recipient and Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) shall meet and reach agreement on a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of available funding.

II. Eligibility Requirements

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This is an open solicitation for public and private entities. Each grant agreement resulting from this solicitation includes terms and conditions that set forth the recipient's rights and responsibilities. All recipients must **agree to use only the PIER Grant Terms and Conditions** (www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html). Private sector entities must agree to use PIER standard terms and conditions. The University of California, California, or U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories must use either the standard or the pre-negotiated terms and conditions under (www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html). The Energy Commission will not award contracts to non-complying entities. The Energy Commission reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing grant agreements.

Applicants must propose a team with demonstrated capabilities to successfully complete technology development and demonstration projects. While there is no requirement for Applicants to reside in California, the proposed demonstration site must be located in California **in an investor-owned utility service area** and the project must directly benefit California's natural gas ratepayers.

A. California-Based Entities

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 25620.5(h), the California Energy Commission's PIER Program must give priority to "California-Based Entities" (CBEs) when making awards. A CBE is a corporation or other business entity organized for the transaction of business that either:

- Has its headquarters in California AND manufactures in California the product that is the subject of the award; or
- Has an office for the transaction of business in California and substantially manufactures the product or substantially performs the research within California that is the subject of the award.

Each proposal must include a CBE as either the recipient or a subcontractor, and the budget must show that at least 60% of PIER funds are allocated to one or more CBEs. Please see Attachments [12] (California-Based Entity Requirement) and [13] (California-Based Entity Questionnaire). Multiple CBEs may be used to meet the 60% requirement. For example, the 60% requirement is met if the recipient CBE receives 31% of PIER funds and the subcontractor CBE receives 29% of PIER funds.

B. Funds Spent in California

At least 60% of PIER funds must be spent in California on expenses that fall within the categories identified in Attachment B-2 (Category Summary) of Attachment 8 (Budget Forms). These expenses include direct labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials/miscellaneous, minor subcontractors, indirect overhead, general and administrative costs, and travel costs.

“Spent in California” means that:

- Funds under the “Direct Labor” category and all categories calculated based on direct labor in the B-4 budget attachments (Prime and Subcontractor Labor Rates) are paid to individuals that pay California state income taxes on wages received for work performed under the agreement. Payments made to out-of-state workers do not count as “funds spent in California.” However, funds spent by out-of-state workers in California (e.g., hotel and food) can count as “funds spent in California.”
- Business transactions (e.g., material and equipment purchases, leases, and rentals) are entered into with a business located in California.

Airline ticket purchases are not considered funds “Spent in California.”

C. California Secretary of State Registration

California business entities as well as non-California business entities conducting intrastate business in California are required to register and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State in order to enter into a funding agreement with the Energy Commission. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Office as soon as possible. For more information, visit the California Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Proposals submitted to this solicitation should focus on one of the Targeted Technology Areas (Attachment 18). Technologies demonstrated must be past the proof-of-concept stage, and capable of deployment in utility field level demonstrations within 12 months of the agreement start date. Proposals should reflect a comprehensive understanding of the current state of technologies in the chosen area, providing clear market connections for the proposed technology and quantifiable potential benefits to natural gas ratepayers in California.

Demonstrations must be located in California in an investor-owned utility service area.

Applicants are encouraged to have one or more backup demonstration sites because grant awards may not be made for at least 6-12 months after proposal submittal. If a site is lost, the Applicant is responsible for finding another suitable California site. The loss of a demonstration site will place the grant award in jeopardy. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Projects must advance state-of-the-art technologies that are not adequately covered by the competitive or regulated markets, and/or public or private entities. For each of the Targeted Technology Areas, each project must address the criteria outlined in Attachment 18. These criteria were established through interaction with pipeline operators to ensure that the demonstrated technologies will effectively enhance current integrity management practices.

MATCH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Match funding is not required for this solicitation. However, match funding will be taken into account when scoring the proposal. See the “Project Budget” Evaluation Criteria Section. “Match funding” includes equipment, materials, information technology (IT) services, travel, subcontractor costs, and cash. Match funding does not include in-kind prime contractor labor. Match funds may come from the prime contractor, subcontractors, or demonstration sites. Match funding does not need to be spent in California.

PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

There will be one Pre-Application Workshop; participation in this meeting is optional but encouraged. The Pre-Application Workshop will be held through in-person participation, WebEx, and conference call at the date, time and location listed below. Please call (916) 654-4381 or refer to the Energy Commission's website at www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html to confirm the date and time.

November 13, 2012
10:00 am Pacific Standard Time (GMT-11:00, San Francisco)
California Energy Commission
Hearing Room B, First Floor
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To join the WebEx meeting, click the following link and enter the meeting number and password provided below:

Topic: Buildings Energy Efficiency Research and Technology Grant Program Workshop

Meeting Number: 927 097 628

Meeting Password: meeting@10

COMPUTER LOGON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 927 097 628
2. When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password: meeting@10
3. After you login, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide your phone number. In the Number box, type your area code and phone number and click OK to receive a call back on your phone for the audio of the meeting. International callers can use the "Country/Region" button to help make their connection.

COMPUTER LOGON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER, ETC.

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 927 097 628
2. When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password: meeting@10
3. After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. CLICK CANCEL.
4. Instead call **1-866-469-3239** (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number above and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your screen after you login. International callers can dial in using the "Show all global call-in numbers" link (also in the top left area).

TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS)

1. Call **1-866-469-3239** (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the unique meeting number above. International callers can select their number from <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

For help with problems or questions trying to join or attend the meeting, please call WebEx Technical Support at 1-866-229-3239.

System Requirements: To see if your computer is compatible, visit

<http://support.webex.com/support/system-requirements.html>

Meeting Preparation: The playback of UCF (Universal Communications Format) rich media files require appropriate players. To view this type of rich media files in the meeting, please check whether you have the players installed on your computer by going to <https://energy.webex.com/energy/systemdiagnosis.php>

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QUESTIONS

During the PON process, questions of clarification about this PON must be directed to the Grants Officer listed in the following section. You may ask questions at the Pre-Application Workshop, and you may submit written questions via mail, electronic mail, and by FAX. However, all questions must be received by 5:00 pm on the date listed in the Key Activities and Dates table earlier in this solicitation.

Question and answer sets will be e-mailed to all parties who attended the Pre-Application Workshop and provided their contact information on the sign-in sheet. The questions and answers will also be posted on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html>.

Any verbal communication with a Commission employee concerning this PON is not binding on the State and shall in no way alter a specification, term, or condition of the PON. Therefore, all communication should be directed in writing to the Energy Commission's Grant Officer assigned to the PON.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Michael Poe, Grants Officer
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-18
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 654-4809
FAX: (916) 654-4423
E-mail: Michael.Poe@energy.ca.gov

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Applicants responding to this PON may want to familiarize themselves with the following documents: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html> under "Current Solicitations". Interested parties may also join the Energy Commission's listserv to receive notifications of any changes to this solicitation, new funding opportunities, and other daily updates (select the "Opportunity" and/or "NaturalGas" list under "Commission General Lists" at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html>

All above reference documents are on display and available for review in the Energy Commission's Library. Library hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed for lunch 12:00-1:00p.m. The Library is located at: California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 654-4292.

III. Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery

ABOUT THIS SECTION

This section contains the format requirements and instructions on how to submit an application. The format is prescribed to assist the Applicant in meeting State requirements and to enable the Commission to evaluate each application uniformly and fairly. Applicants must follow all Application format instructions, answer all questions, and supply all requested data.

REQUIRED FORMAT FOR APPLICATION

All applications submitted under this PON must be typed or printed using a standard 11-point font, singled-spaced with a blank line between paragraphs. Pages must be numbered and sections titled and printed back-to-back. Spiral or comb binding is preferred and tabs are encouraged. Binders are discouraged. Original applications should be bound only with a binder clip.

NUMBER OF COPIES

Applicants must submit the original and 6 copies of the application (Sections 1 and 2). Applicants must also submit electronic files of the application on [CD-ROM or USB memory stick](#) along with the paper submittal. Only one CD-ROM or USB memory stick is needed. Electronic files must be in Microsoft Word XP (.doc format) and Excel Office Suite formats. Completed Budget Forms, Attachment 8, must be in Excel format. Electronic files submitted via e-mail will not be accepted.

PACKAGING AND LABELING

The original and copies of the application must be labeled "Program Opportunity Notice 12-505," and include the title of the application.

Include the following label information and deliver your application, in a sealed package:

Contact Person's Name, Phone #
Applicant's Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code
FAX #

PON #12-505
Contracts, Grants & Loans Office, MS-18
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

PREFERRED METHOD FOR DELIVERY

An Applicant may deliver an application by:

- U. S. Mail
- In Person
- Courier service

Applications must be delivered **no later than 3:00 p.m.**, to the Commission Contracts, Grants and Loans Office during normal business hours and prior to the date and time specified in this PON. In accordance with Public Contract Code 10344, applications received after the specified date and time are considered late and will not be accepted. There are no exceptions to this law. Postmark dates of mailing, E-mail and facsimile (FAX) transmissions are not acceptable in whole or in part, under any circumstances.

ORGANIZE YOUR APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS

SECTION 1, Administrative Response

Table of Contents

Application Form Attachment 1

SECTION 2, Technical and Cost Application

Project Narrative

Scope of Work and Schedule Attachment 3. See also SOW Instructions Attachment 2.

Project Team

Prevailing Wage Special Condition Attachment 4

Prevailing Wage Certificate Attachment 5

Prevailing Wage Q&A Information Attachment 6

Client References Attachment 7

Previous Work Products

Budget Forms Attachment 8. See also J below.

CEQA Compliance Form Attachment 11

California Based Entity Attachment 13

Questionnaire Form

A. Application Form

Applicants must include a complete and signed Application Form shown in Attachment 1. The proposal must include an original Application Form signed by an authorized representative of the Applicant's organization. This signature certifies that all information in the application is correct and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge AND that the applicant has read the Terms and Conditions, and will accept them without negotiation if awarded.

The Application Form shall also include, at a minimum, a project description, project goals, and quantitative and measurable objectives to be achieved.

B. Project Narrative

The Project Narrative must include a detailed description of the proposed project(s), including the entity that will own and operate the proposed project(s), operational goals and objectives of the proposed project(s), and an explanation of how the proposed project(s):

- Addresses each of the scoring criteria. Provide sufficient detail so that reviewers will be able to evaluate the proposal against each of the scoring criteria
- Addresses the criteria for the applicable target technology area (see Attachment 18)

- Identifies the technological barrier being addressed and explains why it is detrimental to the current inspection and integrity management methods
- Describes the proposed technology or process and the proposed demonstration project
- Helps operators maintain and improve the NG pipeline infrastructure integrity and safety
- **Quantifies proposed benefits** (include metrics and methods of calculation). Benefits sought in this solicitation are increased operational awareness, improved accuracy of pipeline inspections, decreased errors in data collection, reduction of operating costs, and decreased incidence of pipeline failure. For example, if stating improved accuracy of pipeline inspections, quantify it as detectable flaw size (mm/in) and probability of detection (%)
- Summarizes the above items clearly and concisely with a fact sheet using the attached template (see Attachment 19)
- Allocates at least 60% of PIER funds to California Based Entities (CBEs). Proposals must document how at least 60% of PIER funds will be spent in California
- Demonstrates the proposed technology in a utility setting in California. Demonstration sites must be in California Investor Owned Utility (IOU) service areas. Sites in Publicly Owned Utility (POU) service areas are not eligible for funding under this solicitation. Demonstrations using natural gas funding must be in an IOU natural gas utility area, namely in a utility area serviced by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)
- Accomplishes the proposed work by September 30, 2015. Agreements must not extend beyond September 30, 2015, so that all funds can be invoiced by December 31, 2015

C. **Scope of Work and Schedule**

Applicants must include a completed Scope of Work and Schedule for each project. Please use the templates contained in Attachment 3 and Attachment 9, respectively. All work must be scheduled for completion by September 30, 2015, including at least six months of data collection and reporting. Instructions for completing the Scope of Work as well as a sample are included in Attachment 3. **Electronic files for the Scope of Work must be in MSWord.**

Instructions for the Schedule of Products and Due Dates are included in the document template. **Electronic files for the Schedule of Products and Due Dates must be in MS Excel.** The description of activities proposed in the Project Narrative must conform to the Tasks described in the Scope of Work.

D. **Project Team**

Identify, by name, all key personnel assigned to the project, including the project manager, and clearly describe their individual areas of responsibility. The project manager is the individual responsible for interacting with the Energy Commission Grant Manager on all issues relating to the overall project and coordinating all aspects of work under the project.

For each individual, include company, position title, job description, individual resume (maximum of two pages), and contact information.

Include a letter of commitment from key project partners.

Provide a list of past projects detailing relevant technical and business experience.

E. Prevailing Wage Special Condition

This condition identifies prevailing wage compliance requirements.

F. Prevailing Wage Compliance Certificate

If the project requires payment of prevailing wages, the Recipient must: (1) complete and sign this certificate; and (2) obtain signatures from all of its contractors and any subcontractors involved in public works funded by this Agreement.

G. Information on Compliance with Prevailing Wages

This question and answer form clarifies the prevailing wage compliance

H. Client References

Please provide the required references.

I. Previous Work Products

Each applicant shall provide at least one example of a similar work product for the services to be provided as described in the PON. If subcontractors will be providing technical support in a task area, each subcontractor shall also submit one sample work product that demonstrates experience in potential work assignments described in this PON.

J. Budget Forms

Task Summary	Attachment 8, Att B-1
Category Summary	Attachment 8, Att B-2
Prime Labor Rates	Attachment 8, Att B-3
Labor Rates for each Subcontractor	Attachment 8, Att B-3a-z
Prime Non-Labor Rates	Attachment 8, Att B-4
Non-Labor Rates for each Subcontractor	Attachment 8, Att B-4a-z
Direct Operating Expenses	Attachment 8, Att B-5
Match Funding	Attachment 8, Att B-6
Prime Loaded Rates	Attachment 8, Att B-7
Loaded Rates for each Subcontractor	Attachment 8, Att B-7a-z
Rates Summary	Attachment 8, Att B-8

The applicant must submit information on all of the attached budget forms, and this will be deemed the equivalent of a formal Cost Application. Detailed instructions for completing these forms are included at the beginning of Attachment 8 (Budget Forms).

Rates and personnel shown must reflect rates and personnel the applicant would charge if chosen as the Recipient for this PON. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered on these forms become a part of the final agreement.

The entire term of the agreement and projected rate increases must be considered when preparing the budget. The rates bid are considered capped and shall not change during the term of the agreement. The Recipient will only be reimbursed for its **actual** rates up to these rate caps. The hourly rates provided in all B-3s must be unloaded (before fringe benefits, overheads, general and administrative (G&A) or profit).

NOTE: The information provided in these forms will **not** be kept confidential.

Attachment B-8: Rates Summary

This attachment will be used for the purposes of calculating the ratio of unloaded labor rates to loaded labor rates, located in the Evaluation Criteria Worksheet. The loaded hourly rate is defined as direct labor, fringe benefits, non-labor rates (overhead, general and administrative, etc., as applicable). Attachments B-7 and B-8 will fill in automatically. Applicants must include all possible classifications on Attachment B-3, as no new classifications may be added during the term of the agreement.

K. Budget Information (see Attachment 8)

1. All project expenditures (match share and reimbursable) must be expended within the approved term of the funding agreement. The requirements for match share funding are included earlier in this solicitation.
2. The Budget should allow for the expenses of a Kick-off Meeting, at least one (1) Critical Project Review meeting, and a Final meeting. It is anticipated that meetings will be conducted at the Energy Commission located in Sacramento, CA.
3. Applicants should budget for permits, insurance, etc. The Energy Commission will not pay for permitting, but it should be accounted for in match share.
4. The Budget should allow for the preparation and submission of monthly/quarterly progress reports (1-2 pages each) during the approved term of the agreement, and a Final Report. Instructions for preparing the Final Report will be provided to successful Applicants.
5. The purchase of equipment (defined as items with a unit cost greater than \$5,000 and a useful life of greater than one year) with Energy Commission funds will require disposition of purchased equipment at the end of the project. Typically, Grant Recipients may continue to utilize equipment purchased with Energy Commission funds as long as the use is consistent with the intent of the original Grant Agreement. *There are no disposition requirements for equipment purchased with match share funding.*
6. The Budget must reflect estimates for **actual** costs to be incurred during the approved term of the project. The Energy Commission can only approve and reimburse for actual costs that are properly documented in accordance with the Grant Terms and Conditions.
7. The Budget must **NOT** include any profit from the proposed project, either as a reimbursed item or as match share. Please review the Grant Terms and Conditions for additional restrictions and requirements.
8. In addition to cost forms, Applicants must submit letters of commitment identifying the source(s) and availability of match funding.

L. CEQA Compliance Form

Applicants must complete Attachment 11. The Energy Commission requires this information to assist its own determination under the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resource Code Section 21000 et.seq).

M. California Based Entities Questionnaire Form

Please see Attachment 13 for further details.

IV. Evaluation Process and Criteria

ABOUT THIS SECTION

This section explains how the applications will be evaluated. It describes the evaluation stages, preference points, and scoring of all applications.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

An Applicant's application will be evaluated and scored based on its response to the information requested in this PON. The entire evaluation process from receipt of applications to posting of the Notice of Proposed Award is confidential.

To evaluate all Applications, the Energy Commission will organize an Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee may consist of Energy Commission staff or staff of other California state entities.

The Applications will be evaluated in two stages:

Stage One: Administrative and Completeness Screening

The Grants Office will screen Applications for compliance with proposal requirements and the Grounds for Rejection sections of this solicitation. Applications that fail Stage One shall be disqualified and eliminated from further evaluation.

Stage Two: Technical and Cost Evaluation of Applications

Applications passing Stage One will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee to review and score based on the Evaluation Criteria in this solicitation.

During the evaluation and selection process, the Evaluation Committee may schedule a clarification interview with an Applicant that will either be held by telephone or in person at the Energy Commission for the purpose of clarification and verification of information provided in the application. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the contents of the original Application. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time spent answering clarifying questions.

The total score for each Application will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members.

A minimum score of 70 percent is required for the application to be eligible for funding.

The Energy Commission will propose awards, starting with the highest ranked project.

MINIMUM SCREENING CRITERIA

Stage 1 for all proposals

Proposal Screening Criteria – Pass/Fail The Proposal must pass ALL criteria to progress to the scoring stage.		Pass/Fail
1. PON Application Form (Attachment 1) The form contains the required information, including addendums (as applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail
2. Proposal Narrative: Refer to Section III for required information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail

Proposal Screening Criteria – Pass/Fail The Proposal must pass ALL criteria to progress to the scoring stage.		Pass/Fail
3. Scope of Work (SOW) and Budget: Must be completed as per templates provided in Attachments 3 and 8.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
4. Schedule of Products and Due Dates: Must be prepared as per Attachment 9.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
5. End Date: Technology demonstration work tasks in projects must be completed by September 30, 2015, so that all funds can be invoiced by December 31, 2015.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
6. Proposed demonstration site(s) must be identified with location and partners. Demonstration sites are in California and in a natural gas IOU service territory. Letter(s) of support from the demonstration partner(s) indicating their level of commitment, including monetary commitment (if applicable), must be included in the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
7. California Based Entities (CBE): Certify on the PON Application Form (Attachment 1) that at least 60% of the PIER funds will go to CBEs . The CBE Form is filled out completely (Attachment 13) for each CBE.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
8. PIER Grant Terms and Conditions: Certify on the PON Application Form (Attachment 1) that the Applicant will accept the PIER Grant Terms and Conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
9. Signature of Authorized Representative: Proposal must be signed by an authorized person (one who can execute any agreement resulting from this solicitation). Authorized representative signature on the PON Application Form (Attachment 1).	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	
10. Confidential Information: The Proposal does not contain confidential information.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail	

SCORING SCALE

Using this Scoring Scale, the Evaluation Committee will give a score for each criterion described in the Evaluation Criteria Worksheet.

% of Possible Points	Interpretation	Explanation for Percentage Points
0%	Not Responsive	Response does not include or fails to address the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable.
25%	Minimally Responsive	Response minimally addresses the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable.

50%	Inadequate	Response addresses the requirements being scored, but there are one or more omissions, flaws, or defects or the requirements are addressed in such a limited way that it results in a low degree of confidence in the proposed solution.
70%	Adequate	Response adequately addresses the requirements being scored. Any omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are inconsequential and acceptable.
80%	Good	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a good degree of confidence in the Applicant's response or proposed solution. No identified omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s). Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable.
90%	Excellent	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a high degree of confidence in the Applicant's response or proposed solution. Applicant offers one or more enhancing features, methods or approaches exceeding basic expectations.
100%	Exceptional	All requirements are addressed with the highest degree of confidence in the Applicant's response or proposed solution. The response exceeds the requirements in providing multiple enhancing features, a creative approach, or an exceptional solution.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AWARD

The results of the Energy Commission's decision of proposed funding level, the rank order of proposers, and the amount of each proposed award will be posted in a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA). The Commission will post a NOPA at the Commission's headquarters in Sacramento and on its website, and will mail it to all parties that submitted an application.

DEBRIEFINGS

Unsuccessful Applicants may request a debriefing after the release of the NOPA. A request for debriefing must be received no later than 15 days after the NOPA is released.

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
<p>Organizational Structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the organizational structure of the Applicant, including providing an organizational chart of the entire contract team. 2. Provide a short description of each firm and key members on the team. Describe the relationship between the Contractor and subcontractors on your team. 3. Identify the location of the Applicant's and Subcontractor's headquarters and satellite office(s) and proposed methods of minimizing costs to the State. 4. Describe the Applicant professional awards. 5. Describe the organization, composition, and functions to be performed by staff members of the Applicant and any subcontractors and how the staff pertain to this contract. 6. The Project Manager has specific organizational, administrative, and team lead skills and a proven track record for managing technology RD&D projects successfully. 7. The team structure provides clear roles and responsibilities among the team members, and establishes clear lines of communication to ensure that team members share information and meet their individual responsibilities. 8. The team has technical experience and proven skills appropriate for the proposed technology RD&D. 	10
<p>Relevant Experience and Qualifications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document the project team's qualifications as they apply to performing the tasks described in the Scope of Work. Describe recently completed work as it relates to the Scope of Work. 2. Identify and list all Applicant staff and subcontractors (all team members) who will be committed to the tasks and describe their roles. 3. Provide a current resume for all team members listed, including job classification and description, relevant experience, education, academic degrees, and professional licenses. 4. Identify the percentage of time each team member will be available throughout the contract. 5. The project team has past successes in taking RD&D technology products to market, as well as the experience, skills, and market connections to help ensure market transfer of the products. The proposal describes past and current work related to the proposed technology performed by the project team, including successes and failures. 6. The project team includes involvement by various stakeholders and/or beneficiaries who can help to overcome barriers to market acceptance of the technology. 	10

<p>Labor Hours by Personnel and Task</p> <p>Provide the title or classification of each person and their level of effort (hours) for each task, including subcontractors.</p>	5
<p>Client References</p> <p>Each applicant shall complete Client Reference Forms. Three client references are required for the Contractor and three for each subcontractor.</p> <p>The proposal includes at least one letter of support for the project from a utility partner.</p>	5
<p>Previous Work Products</p> <p>Each applicant shall provide at least one example of a similar work product for the services to be provided as described in the PON. If subcontractors will be providing technical support in a task area, each subcontractor shall also submit one sample work product that demonstrates experience in potential work assignments described in this PON.</p> <p>It is not necessary to provide more than one copy of each work product example. Web links are acceptable.</p>	10
<p>Project Narrative and Scope of Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the Applicant's techniques, approaches, and methods to be used in providing the services listed in the Scope of Work, highlighting any outstanding features, qualifications and experience. 2. The proposal describes quantitative/measurable technical and economic performance goals. 3. The proposal clearly describes the proposed technical approach. RD&D methodology is based on valid scientific and engineering principles. 4. The Scope of Work follows the instructions provided in Attachment 2. The technical tasks are clearly and logically presented, with appropriate objectives, discrete tasks and subtasks, sequence of activities, and deliverables. 5. The work schedule contains appropriately allocated time, labor, equipment, facilities, and budget. 6. The proposal contains a logical and well-defined set of intermediate and final products and deliverables. 7. The proposal includes a clear and methodical plan by which the Applicant's Project Manager will provide regular monthly progress reports to the Commission Project Manager and coordinate the reporting of information to all project team members. 8. The proposal systematically identifies and assesses project risks (e.g. plans for completing the project successfully if proposed match funds are significantly reduced or lost) and includes plans for mitigating these risks. 9. The proposal answers the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What criteria will be used to determine project successes and failures? • How will the technology be implemented? 	10

<p>10. The fact sheet clearly and concisely describes the technological issue being addressed, the approach, and the benefits to California ratepayers achieved by the project.</p>	
<p>NG Pipeline Infrastructure Market Connectedness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal describes how the technology will address market needs, as evidenced by specific market research, surveys, and the Applicant's assessment of market drivers. 2. The proposal explains how efficiently the project team can replicate and scale the proposed technology. 3. There is an adequate discussion of a reasonable path and strategy for commercialization of the proposed technology. 4. There is an adequate discussion of how the project will accelerate the beneficial market deployment. 5. There is an adequate discussion describing experience, ability, past successes, and approach to market development for the proposed technology. 6. There is discussion and analysis of the potential for the prospective technology to improve cost competitiveness over current baseline products. 7. The proposal includes a sound plan for the communication of project results to the market. 8. The project includes appropriate plans to initiate and sustain transfer of the technology results into the marketplace. This market outreach plan should achieve commercialization within 2-3 years after the project ends. 9. The project team has the experience, skills, and connections to the marketplace to help ensure market transfer of the technology, product(s), and knowledge that result from the proposed project. 10. The proposal includes one or more letters of support from a utility partner. 	<p>10</p>
<p>Advances Science or Technology not Adequately Addressed by Competitive or Regulated Markets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal identifies the current status (state-of-the-art) of the subject technology/innovation developed by the research and industrial community at large. 2. The proposal identifies related and available current technologies and explains why the proposed technology is different and how this project will improve, supplement, and/or replace currently available technology. 3. The proposal describes research that has been or is currently being performed on this topic, how the proposed project will leverage results from previous work, and why the project is critically needed and is not duplicative of other efforts. 4. The proposal describes why there is a need for RD&D of the technology/product(s). <u>Quantitative information</u> and all assumptions behind this information are provided to support this argument. 	<p>10</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The proposal explains why the proposed project objective(s) is/are not adequately addressed by the competitive or regulated markets and why there is a need for PIER funding. Consequences if funding is not provided are explained. 6. The proposal depicts existing and planned funding and support by utilities, industry participants, and others, and the extent to which existing and planned funding reasonably maintains technological advancement. 	
<p>Project Budget</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PIER funds requested are reasonable relative to the goals and objectives of the project. 2. There is a compelling case that the project requires PIER funding at the amount requested rather than being funded internally or by competitive or regulated markets. 3. The budget is consistent with the Scope of Work. Also, the budget itemizes reasonable costs for personnel, indirect costs, subcontractors, equipment, operating expenses, fees, and total expenditures, in sufficient detail to justify the expenditures by task. 4. The budget shows that key personnel and subcontractors will be committed to the project for the appropriate number of hours to functions that accomplish the activities described in the work statement. 5. Match funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there match funding? Match funding is not required but proposals can receive between 0 and 5 points for match funding in this scoring criterion, which is worth 10 points. • Is the portion of the budget provided by match funding representative of the ratios of private benefit to public benefit that the project results will provide? In general, the greater the private benefits are anticipated and expected to be, the greater the match share percentage contributed to the project should be. • Are the proposed match funds secure based on the Applicant's organization history and/or letter(s) of commitment by contributing entities? • Does the proposal describe a strategy for replacing match funding if the proposed match funds are significantly reduced or lost? 	10
<p><u>Ratio of Unloaded Labor Rates to Loaded Labor Rates</u></p> <p>The score for this criterion will be derived from the Budget Forms (Attachment 8), Rates Summary worksheet (Attachment B-8), which compares the weighted unloaded rate to the weighted loaded rate. This ratio, as a percentage, is multiplied by the possible points. [Fill in budget worksheets B-1 through B-6 for the Prime Contractor and all major subcontractors. Sheets B-7 and B-8 will fill in automatically. Applicants must include all possible classifications on Attachment B-3, as no new classifications may be added during the term of the agreement.]</p>	5

Funds Spent in California

To be considered for an award in under this solicitation, at least 60% of PIER funds must be spent in California on expenses that fall within the categories identified in the budget (please see the budget instructions). The scoring for this criterion is as follows:

Percentage of PIER funds spent in California	Percentage of Possible Points	15
60-64%	10%	
>64-68%	20%	
>68-72%	30%	
>72-76%	40%	
>76-80%	50%	
>80-84%	60%	
>84-88%	70%	
>88-92%	80%	
>92-96%	90%	
>96-100%	100%	
Total Possible Points		100
Minimum Passing Score (70%)		70

V. Administration

PON DEFINED

The competitive method used for this funding opportunity is a Program Opportunity Notice (PON). An Application submitted in response to this PON will be scored and ranked based on the Evaluation Criteria.

DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

Important definitions for this PON are presented below:

Word/Term	Definition
State	State of California
Energy Commission	California Energy Commission
PON	Program Opportunity Notice, this entire document
Application	Formal written response to this document from Applicant
Applicant	Respondent to this PON
CAM	Commission Agreement Manager
GO	Grants Officer

COST OF DEVELOPING APPLICATION

The Applicant is responsible for the cost of developing an application, and this cost cannot be charged to the State.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Commission will not accept or retain any Applications that are marked confidential in their entirety and Applicants are strongly discouraged from requesting confidential treatment for any of the information contained in a submittal.

PON CANCELLATION AND AMENDMENTS

It is the policy of the Energy Commission not to solicit proposals unless there is a bona fide intention to award an Agreement. However, if it is in the State's best interest, the Energy Commission reserves the right to do any of the following:

- Cancel this PON;
- Revise the amount of funds available under this PON
- Amend this PON as needed; or
- Reject any or all Applications received in response to this PON

If the PON is amended, the Energy Commission will send an addendum to all parties who requested the PON and will also post it on the Energy Commission's Web Site www.energy.ca.gov/contracts.

ERRORS

If an Applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the PON, the Applicant shall immediately notify the Commission of such error in writing and request modification or clarification of the document. Modifications or clarifications will be given by written notice of all parties who requested the PON, without divulging the source of the request for clarification. The Commission shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

MODIFYING OR WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

An Applicant may, by letter to the Contact Person at the Energy Commission, withdraw or modify a submitted Application before the deadline to submit applications. Applications cannot be changed after that date and time. An Application cannot be "timed" to expire on a specific date. For example, a statement such as the following is non-responsive to the PON: "This application and the cost estimate are valid for 60 days."

IMMATERIAL DEFECT

The Energy Commission may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an Applicant's application. The Energy Commission's waiver shall in no way modify the application or excuse the successful Applicant from full compliance.

DISPOSITION OF APPLICANT'S DOCUMENTS

On the Notice of Proposed Award posting date all applications and related material submitted in response to this PON become a part of the property of the State and public record. Applicants who want any work examples they submitted with their applications returned to them shall make this request and provide either sufficient postage, or a Courier Charge Code to fund the cost of returning the examples.

APPLICANTS' ADMONISHMENT

This PON contains the instructions governing the requirements for a firm quotation to be submitted by interested Applicants, the format in which the technical information is to be submitted, the material to be included, the requirements which must be met to be eligible for consideration, and Applicant responsibilities. Applicants must take the responsibility to carefully read the entire PON, ask appropriate questions in a timely manner, submit all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, make sure that all procedures and requirements of the PON are followed and appropriately addressed, and carefully reread the entire PON before submitting an application.

GROUND TO REJECT A APPLICATION

An Application shall be rejected if:

- It is received after the exact time and date set for receipt of applications as identified in Section 1 (Public Contract Code, Section 10344).
- It contains false or intentionally misleading statements or references which do not support an attribute or condition contended by the Applicant.
- The Application is intended to erroneously and fallaciously mislead the State in its evaluation of the Application and the attribute, condition, or capability is a requirement of this PON.
- It contains confidential information.

- The Applicant does not agree to the terms and conditions as attached to the solicitation either by not signing the Recipient Status Form or by stating anywhere in the bid that acceptance is based on modifications to those terms and conditions or separate terms and conditions.
- The Application does not allocate at least 60% of funds to CBEs.
- The Application does not document how at least 60% of PIER funds will be spent in California.

An Application may be rejected if:

- It is not prepared in the mandatory format described.
- It is unsigned.
- The firm or individual has submitted multiple applications for each task.
- It does not literally comply or contains caveats that conflict with the PON and the variation or deviation is not material, or it is otherwise non-responsive.
- The applicant has previously completed a PIER agreement, received the PIER Royalty Review letter, which the Commission annually sends out to remind past recipients of their obligations to pay royalties, and has not responded to the letter or is otherwise not in compliance with repaying royalties.
- The budget forms are not filled out completely.

AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The content of this PON shall be incorporated by reference into the final agreement. See the sample Agreement terms and conditions included in this PON.

The Energy Commission reserves the right to negotiate with Applicants to modify the project scope, the level of funding, or both. If the Energy Commission is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an Applicant, the Energy Commission, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project.

The Grant Agreement will be scheduled and heard at an Energy Commission Business Meeting for approval.

Public agencies that receive funding under this solicitation must provide an authorizing resolution approved by their governing authority that authorizes the agreement with the Energy Commission and designates an authorized representative to sign.

The Energy Commission will send the approved Grant Agreement, including the general Terms and Conditions and any additional terms and conditions, to the grant recipient for review, approval, and signature. Once the grant recipient signs, the Energy Commission will fully execute the Grant Agreement. Recipients are approved to begin the project only after full execution of the Grant Agreement.

No Agreement Until Signed & Approved

No agreement between the Commission and the successful Applicant is in effect until the agreement is signed by the Recipient, approved at a Commission Business Meeting, and signed by the Energy Commission representative.

The Energy Commission reserves the right to modify the award documents prior to executing the Agreement.

Agreement Amendment

The agreement executed as a result of this PON will be able to be amended by mutual consent of the Commission and the Recipient. The agreement may require amendment as a result of project review, changes and additions, changes in project scope, or availability of funding.

PAYMENT OF PREVAILING WAGES

Some projects under this solicitation might be considered public works pursuant to the California Labor Code. If the project is a public work, prevailing wage is required. The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) has jurisdiction to decide whether a particular project is or is not a public work. If the project involves construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair or maintenance work, it probably would be considered by DIR to be a public work. Examples of the activities that would probably lead DIR to find that the project involves public works include: cement work, site preparation such as grading, surveying, electrical work such as wiring, and carpentry work. Certain workers are entitled to prevailing wage, such as operating engineers, surveyors, carpenters, laborers, etc. However, other workers are not subject to State prevailing wage laws, such as design or pre-construction engineers or project superintendent who do not perform work on the projects.

Applicants must determine if the proposed project(s) involve(s) public works, and ensure that the project budget for labor reflects all prevailing wage requirements. The budget should indicate which job classifications are subject to prevailing wage.

In order to determine if the proposed project(s) involve(s) public works, please contact DIR as advised in Attachment 6. If the Applicant is unsure whether the proposed project(s) involve(s) public works and has not received a determination from DIR that the project is not a public work, the Applicant is advised to prepare a budget assuming that prevailing wage laws apply.

If the proposed project is a public work, or is assumed to be a public work, the Applicant can contact DIR for a list of covered trades and the applicable prevailing wage. Any agreement resulting from this solicitation will include the requirements for a public works project, such as paying prevailing wage, keeping payroll records, complying with working hour requirements, and apprenticeship obligations. See the sample terms and conditions, the Special Condition regarding Prevailing Wage Compliance (Attachment 4), and Prevailing Wage Compliance Certification Form (Attachment 5).

For detailed information about prevailing wage and the process to determine if the proposed project(s) is a public work, see the Prevailing Wage Compliance Questions and Answers (Attachment 6).